(b) what is the number of registered weavers cooperative societies all over the country, State-wise;

(c) what is the time frame set up by Government to identify bogus weavers cooperative societies; and

(d) what are the benefits being given to weaver cooperative societies presently by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir. Government of India has not set up any such panel.

(b) A Statement is attached (See below).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Weavers cooperative Societies are eligible under most of the schemes sponsored by Government of India including Market Development Assistance; Scheme for Margin Money for Destitute Weavrs; Workshed-cum-Housng Scheme; Thrift Fund Scheme; etc.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies
1.	Andhra Pradesh	598
2.	Assam	1643
3.	Bihar	1385
4.	Gujarat	1298
5.	Haryana	440
6.	Himachal Pradesh	148
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	223
8.	Karnataka	278
9.	Kerala	602
10.	Madhya Pradesh	504
11.	Maharashtra	842
12.	Manipur	1056
13.	Orissa	756
14.	Punjab	1127
15.	Rajasthan	636
16.	Tamil Nadu	1505
17.	Tripura	69
18.	Uttar Pradesh	4323
19.	West Bengal	1388
20.	Meghalaya	28
21.	Pondicherry	14
22.	Mizoram	41
23.	Delhi	449
24.	Nagaland	74
	TOTAL	19,427

Modernisation of cotton ginning and pressing industry

1039. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised any action plan for modernisation of cotton ginning and pressing industry to improve the quality of fibre;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when the action plan is likely to be implemented; and

(d) what is the extent upto which it will be helpful to the cotton industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) The Government has drawn up an Action Plan for the improvement in ginning and pressing industry. A long term programme of education, training of management practices, preparation of maintenance manuals is to be taken up in

this direction. Similarly, installation of pneumatic succession system for conveying kapas through heeps to gin has been contemplated and a few ginneries in the country has been identified for modernisation. This would help cotton industry to improve efficiency and the quality of product. No specific timeframe has been fixed for implementation of the plan.

Smuggling of raw silk from China

1040. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the prices of raw silk during last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether the prices of raw silk are lying low due to availability of cheap silk smuggled from China;

(c) whether Government have any estimates of smuggled raw silk during last five years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the steps taken to prevent smuggling of raw silk especially from China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The average prices of different varieties of raw silk in Government Silk Exchanges, during the last five years, were as follows:—

(Price in Rs. per Kg.)

Year	Filaturel Cottage Basin	Charka	Dupion
1988-89	800	629	446
1989-90	846	689	474
1990-91	906	707	432
1991-92	1260	1057	486
1992-93	1087	826	469

(b) The downward trend in the prices of indigenous raw silk is partly attributed to the increased availability of raw silk on account of increase in indigenous production and partly due to availability of low priced silk imported under various export promotion schemes. There are also some reports of silk being smuggled into India.

(c) to (e) Smuggling is a clandestine activity and hence it is not possible to estimate the quantity of raw silk smuggled during the last 5 years. However, in view of the recent allegations about the possibilities of raw silk being smuggled into the country, the concerned Government agencies have been suitably alerted and close co-ordination is being maintained to check muggling effectively.

Reopening of Prag-Hosimi Textile Mill

1041. SHRI BHADRESHWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present condition of the Prag-Hosimi Textile Mill at Sipajhar, Assam;

(b) whether the mill has already been closed; and

(c) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to reopen the Mill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) As for the information gathered from the Government of Assam, 50 per cent of the draw twisting section and texturising (Phase-I) of the mill was commissioned in August, 1992. The balance 50 per cent is scheduled to be completed by February 1994. Phase-II-A, which is textile section is in progress. The target date of commissioning is October, 1993. Phase-II-B which is Polycondensation section is in progress and target date of commissioning is February, 1994.

(b) and (c) Phase-I remain closed from 22nd December, 1992 to third